

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT –

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

Mtg w/ Jeff Bierl – Ashland County Administrator (Aug 28) – meeting was arranged by County Board Supervision Mike Starck - met with Bierl to discuss increasing the depth and breadth of County assistance – including encouraging the County to establish a Tribal Relations committee or having a representative for the Island TR committee. Bierl was resistant to increased County assistance in the areas of law enforcement, zoning and the highway contract.

***TA indicated that the Town would like to revisit the highway contract to ensure that the cost of administration is added to the contract amount – at this time it is not.

***TA indicated that, while the Town is not requesting additional law enforcement or zoning funding, it would like to discuss the broad range of potential opportunities that may exist in other County Dept – including animal control, aging, agriculture, etc., to look at the possibilities of creating Island programs under some of those departments --- operative theory is to take advantage of whatever additional County programs or participation possible, thereby increasing the town's return on contributions to the County. *TA and Beirl to meet once a month to explore program opportunities.*

Big Bay Town Park Improvement Project – continual – Over the course of the last two weeks (since the last TA report), there have been substantial discussion, meetings and site visits to advance the schedules, permits and configuration of the Project. TA and Town Foreman have been in continual contact to ensure all issues are being addressed in an effective and timely manner ---- the Town Foreman has done an exceptional job of delegating and advising as to issues and opportunities. Most of the details have been included in the Town Foreman's report and TA's comments and recommendations.

Rice Street/Grigg's Approach – The President issued an executive order indicating that if 'earmarks' are not used – the projects are not substantially begun – by 12/31/12 – the earmark would be lost --- the proposed Rice Street extension is a product of an 'earmark' administered by the WI DOT.

TA, Town Chairman and Town Foreman discussed the matter and arrived at a consensus that the Rice Street extension might be better phased in by the Town rather than done as a complete project -----that said, the Town has spent approx.. \$70,000. On engineering and wetland delineation which, if the earmark were turned down, may have to be repaid.

TA spoke with Brent Pickard about forgiving the \$70,000.00 – BP agreed and would be sending a letter to that effect. TA further discussed the potential of moving approx.

\$100,000+ to the Griggs Approach project which is ready to go and is of substantial consequence to the Town --- BP indicated some amenability to the proposal and requested a discussion and documentation to move forward on the movement of 'earmark' money. TA is working to secure revised drawings and cost estimates that would justify the movement of \$100,000+ from the Rice Street 'earmark' to the Griggs project. TA is determined to have the documents, plans and proposal to WI DOT/Pickard by the end of next week (9/21)

*****Issue – the balance of the earmark, after engineering and wetland delineation deduction, is approximately \$300,000. The Griggs Approach project revenue shift would leave a balance of approximately \$200,000. TA believes that, if the Town has or can create relevant DOT/Road projects to which some or all of that balance could be applied, that the WI DOT could be induced to keep the entire 'earmark' on the Island. It is an issue that should be discussed at the earliest possible moment to take advantage of whatever momentum has or will be generated as a function of the Griggs Approach proposal.

Brummer/MISA Complaint – TA attended the TPC meeting (Sept 6) to get a sense of where the Committee is heading relative to resolution of the matter. The TPC discussion was at a high level and the TPC should be commended for its thoughtfulness and professionalism. The TPC will issue its decision on 9/20 after which the Board will be charged with ratifying, revising, rejecting or rewriting the decision. TA will keep the Board apprised of all developments and communications that pertain to this matter.

Wisconsin Arts Board - The Wisconsin Arts Board visited the Island last Friday (Sept 7). TA represented the Town government and greeted the Board, which included fm. Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton, when it toured MISA – it was a valuable visit and excellent interchange which has the potential to assist MISA in its marketing and development efforts.

Outreach Efforts – TA has emailed and called the tribal chairpersons of both the Bad River and Red Cliff Bands to introduce himself and engage in preliminary discussions about the Island's interest in a collaborative and cooperative relationship – TA will continue to communicate with both Chairpersons to ensure they understand that we are determined to build a future that respects history, heritage and culture while reflects the necessity and desirability of thoughtful and essential progress.

TA met with Bayfield Mayor Larry McDonald – at the WI Coastal Mgmt workshop – and introduced the topic of improving the Bayfield side approach in concert with the Griggs Project --- McDonald is supportive and will introduce TA to the Bayfield Town Clerk and City Council members to pave the way to future proposals.